

Military Commission Proceedings Begin in Barhoumi Case

Military commission proceedings were held Mar. 2 in the case of *United States v. Barhoumi* at U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Barhoumi is represented by Army Capt. Wade Faulkner. The Presiding Officer, Navy Capt. Daniel O'Toole, opened the initial session and explained to Barhoumi his rights to counsel in the military commission process. After Barhoumi acknowledged he understood his rights to counsel, O'Toole announced that he would be adjourning commission proceedings until April at the request of defense counsel. Proceedings are set to resume at the next commission trial term set for Apr. 3, 2006.

Military commissions have historically been used to try violations of the law of war. Military commissions provide for:

- a full and fair trial;
- protection of classified and sensitive information; and
- protection and safety of all personnel participating in the process, including the accused.

A copy of Barhoumi's charge sheet is available at:
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Nov2005/d20051104barhoumi.pdf>